

## Active Travel Fund – Tranche 2 Consultation Plan for the West Midlands

For Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 (ATF2), Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) and Local Authorities (LAs) will build on the engagement developed in Emergency Active Travel Fund Tranche 1 (EATF1). They will work together to further enhance their consultation methods to ensure consultation and public engagement is thorough, diverse and extensive. Consultation work will take place **prior** to any construction work and during the period where the infrastructure schemes are being utilised. This will be achieved through:

### EATF 1 Public Feedback

Where EATF1 schemes are being removed or extended, each Commonplace (online engagement platform) tile will have a template. This allows public to see how their comments and previous consultations have shaped or removed the EATF1 schemes. LA's may undertake additional reflection and consultations to ensure key stakeholders are informed, by utilising existing platforms.

### Commonplace

The core online consultation will be facilitated through [Commonplace](#). Residents will be able to complete online surveys to provide feedback about the different ATF2 infrastructure schemes and proposals. Respondents will be able to log their approval rating for the proposals, and also suggest improvements to the scheme(s). Commonplace will be the primary means of consultation for schemes delivered as part of ATF2, in addition to the existing LA processes and practices (including statutory obligations for consultations). Any additional platforms used by individual authorities will link back to the Commonplace homepage.

### LA Online Engagement Platform Consultation

LAs will have autonomy to facilitate consultation using established consultation platforms, for example Lets talk in Coventry, Be Heard in Birmingham. These platforms will allow LAs to undertake their own formal and statutory consultation utilising their existing tools to compliment the Commonplace platform. All additional sites being utilised will be signposted from the central Commonplace site (where appropriate). Feedback received from all sources will be collated into one central database.

### Stakeholder Identification and Engagement

LAs will identify key stakeholders affected by each ATF2 scheme. They will work in coordination with TfWM Travel Demand Team to engage with these. LA's and TfWM will ensure stakeholders are consulted through direct online surveys, personalised consultation or by feeding into Commonplace engagement in addition to existing embedded processes for consultations. This consultation will be inclusive of, but not limited to, businesses, schools, local residents, Royal Mail, emergency services, public transport operators and community and disability groups.

Each scheme may impact a different demographic of stakeholders. Therefore, an engagement and consultation plan for ATF schemes will be created by LA's, supported by TfWM and, where possible, shared on the Commonplace site and TfWM website. Engaging with disabled individuals, including the partially sighted and blind community, will be central to ensuring that the consultation is inclusive and caters to those disproportionately affected by infrastructure changes.

When stakeholder engagement is undertaken prior to construction, LA's will send a letter to DfT via TfWM outlining how they have consulted with local stakeholders.

### Consultation with Councillors and MPs

LAs will engage with Councillors (Cllrs) and MPs in wards affected by ATF2 schemes. They will be asked for approvals for each scheme will be rated using RAG rating (Red/Amber/Green) or similar method of gauging sentiment. Depending on the scheme, Cllrs and MPs from bordering wards will also be kept informed about potential impacts on their wards. LAs will brief Cllrs and MPs on the engagement that has taken place with key stakeholders within their wards and current levels of public support for the scheme(s). All LAs will work within their



own standard democratic processes which may include schemes being formally considered by the relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holder at a public facing formal Decision Session.

### Consultation with Public Transport Operators and Emergency Services

Changes in road space allocation impacts traffic and operation of bus services. We will consult with TfWM's Integrated Transport Services team and local bus operators, including National Express, during the development and delivery of the scheme. Emergency services will also be kept informed of any changes to highway alignment.

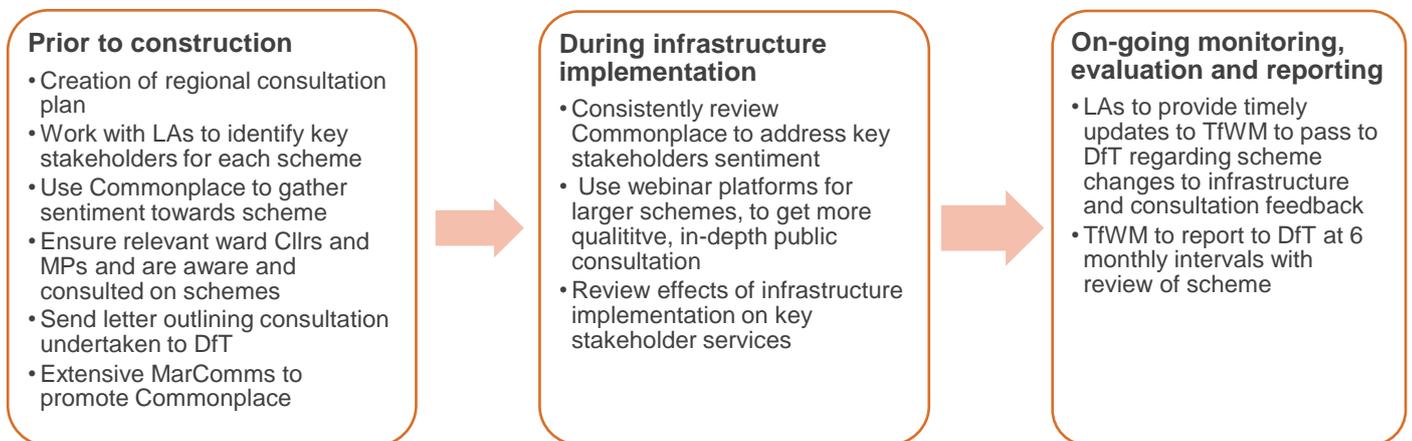
**To ensure the consultation reaches a diverse cross-section of residents, an extensive engagement plan will be carried out.**

We acknowledge that not everyone will have access to the internet to be able to use Commonplace. TfWM will work with our Marketing team and LA partners to strive for diverse and extensive public engagement, by keeping the public informed using various media outlets. We will also use mail drops and mail in surveys to provide options for those who cannot use the Commonplace website.

### Review and Feedback on Schemes

We will feedback on schemes as appropriate and consider options for schemes to ensure positive benefit. We acknowledge that initial response to some schemes may be less than supportive. We will work with communities to help communicate long terms benefits to health and wellbeing of families, social inclusion, air quality, environment and congestion. There are several examples across the UK, where schemes received objection in the first instance, but over time has received very high level of support by residents and local businesses. We will seek to make amends where possible, maintaining the positive impact of the scheme. However, in order to achieve the step change in cycling and walking levels, reallocation of road space will be needed.

### Consultation timeline



### Working in partnership with

